

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2087
TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 15TH MARCH, 2022

MECHANISM TO CHECK USE OF FERTILIZERS/PESTICIDES

2087. MS DEBASREE CHAUDHURI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Government proposes to constitute an effective monitoring mechanism to check usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides by farmers which are hazardous to human lives by conducting surprise checks at the agriculture sites;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the various steps taken by Government to educate the farming community to discourage the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and opt for organic farming which would fetch better price in the market, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

कृषि एवं किसान कल्याण मंत्री (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

(a) & (b): The colour codes of pesticides red label with skull and crossbones & POISON (Extremely Toxic), yellow label with POISON without the skull and crossbones(Highly Toxic), blue label with DANGER(Moderately Toxic) and green label with CAUTION(Slightly Toxic) are the mandatory labels employed on pesticide containers for identifying the level of toxicity of the pesticides. (Insecticides Act of 1968 and the Insecticides Rules of 1971). Sale and usages of pesticides are regulated by State Governments. In case of fertilizers the Government of India has specified such fertilizers whose agronomic efficacy is well proven.

The Government of India encourages the balanced and integrated use of fertilizers. Central and State Governments through their field agencies ensure that farmers are provided right knowledge/ information about recommended fertiliser and pesticide use. All the Farmers in the country are provided Soil test based crop specific recommendations about integrated

and balanced use of fertilisers (chemical, bio and organic fertilisers) under Soil Health Card programme. Trainings and demonstrations on INM are integral part of schemes like National Food Security Mission, and Soil Health Management (SHM).

(c): Financial assistance is provided to State Governments for training of farmers, demonstrations on farmer fields and organizing farmers melas. Since 2015, around 6.45 lakh demonstrations, 93781 farmer's trainings and 7425 farmers melas are organized/conducted under the programme.

Further, Government is promoting organic farming through dedicated schemes viz Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) and Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCDNER) since 2015-16. Both the schemes provide end to end support to organic farmers from organic production to certification and marketing including post harvest management support like processing, packaging, storage etc.

Under PKVY Scheme, farmers are provided financial assistance of Rs 50000/ha for 3 years in which, Rs 31000/ ha / 3 years is provided directly to farmers through DBT for organic inputs such as seeds, bio fertilizers, bio-pesticides, organic manure, compost/vermi-compost, botanical extracts etc. whereas under the MOVCDNER scheme, a sum of Rs. 46,575/ha for 3years are provided for creation of FPO, support to farmers for organic inputs, quality seeds/ planting material and training, hand holding and certification. Besides, financial assistance is also provided as subsidy to FPOs and Private entrepreneurs.

To educate and to make the aware farming community on organic farming, States are training and handholding farmers through support agencies and organizing awareness camps on organic production, marketing, exposure visit etc. An amount of Rs 7500/ha for 3 years is provided under PKVY for this purpose. National Centre for Organic Farming (NCOF), a subordinate office of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), spreads awareness among farmers by organizing Jaivik Kisan sammelans, field demonstration and farmers training on organic farming and through print and also electronic media etc.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare is also implementing the Sub-Mission on Plant Protection with a mandate to popularize the adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) through training and demonstration in crops, inter-alia promotion of biological control approaches in crop protection technology. The DPPQ&S, through 35 Central Integrated Pest Management Centers (CIPMCs) in different States and UTs popularize the IPM through Farmer Field Schools and HRD programs. Central Integrated Pest Management Centers conduct workshops, group meetings, trainings, various HRD programs and activities to promote the use of bio-control agents, bio-pesticides among the farming community. Bio-

control agents are mass multiplied in laboratories and released in farmer fields, which reduce the pest infestation and thus avoid crop loss. Farmers are also trained on farm production of Biocontrol agents, Entomo-pathogens and antagonistic fungi & bacteria on their own to reduce the dependency on chemical pesticides.

Further, farmers are made aware about conservation of natural enemies by Central Integrated Pest Management Centers and mass multiplied bio-control agents are released in farmer fields for holistic management of pest & diseases.